

REMARKS

In the Restriction Requirement mailed on September 28, 2004, the Examiner restricted claims 1-32. Specifically, the Examiner restricted the pending claims to one of the following groups:

Group I: Claims 1-10, 11-19, 26, 27 and 29-32, drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 219, subclass 137.62; and

Group II: Claims 20-25, drawn to a method, classified in class 219, subclass 137r.

Furthermore, the Examiner required an election of one of the following species if Group I is selected:

- Species 1: Claims 1-10 pertain to a thermal storage member adapted to absorb heat;
- Species 2: Claims 11-19 pertain to a tube operable to conduct electricity;
- Species 3: Claim 26 pertains to means for storing and transferring heat;
- Species 4: Claims 27-28 pertain to first and second tubular member; and
- Species 5: Claims 29-32 pertain to an air-cooled TIG welding torch.

Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's reasons for restriction and the restriction requirement and the reasons for election and the election requirement, Applicant elects to prosecute claims 1-10 of Group 1: Species 1. Therefore, by the present Response, Applicant has canceled claims 20-25 without prejudice for possible inclusion in a divisional application. Furthermore, Applicant has withdrawn claims 11-19 and 26-32 from consideration, pending the allowability of a generic claim. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-10 will be pending in the present application. Respectfully, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Date: October 28, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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